

From: [Blair Besten](#)
To: [Kent Smith](#)
Cc: [Marie Rumsey](#); [Rena Leddy](#); [Sauli Danpour](#); [Raquel Beard](#); mike@skidrow.org; jgarcia@hasc.org; [Jessica Lall](#)
Subject: Re: Homelessness Working Group- Letter to CM Huizar
Date: Friday, June 19, 2015 12:35:24 PM

That may be more of a conversation with each member or maybe a general, brief paragraph at the end? Definitely about the drop in and bathrooms-great points. Mobile bathrooms are the only option that would work, in my opinion. But the city cannot afford them. I got the feeling yesterday that a number of the committee members may be pushing for shelters/transitional facilities as a "state of emergency" and I think we need to guide them towards that, but none in Skid Row. These need to be regionalized. City may have property elsewhere. A tough sell in most districts, but they need some sort of ordinance to back it up. Make it a mandate due to the overcrowding and lack of "fair share" having the concentration in SR. (Maybe this is too much for one paragraph...)

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On Fri, Jun 19, 2015 at 10:56 AM, Kent Smith <kent@fashiondistrict.org> wrote:
Marie,

I was very concerned after reading the LA Times article that the ad hoc committee may be going back to placing temporary porta-potties back on the streets of Skid Row.

This was an unmitigated disaster to say the least.

Council District 9 under Rita Walters opened the Skid Row Drop-in Center now run by Volunteers of America which was supposed to supply bathrooms, showers & laundry facilities for the street population. LAMP also developed similar facilities at that time.

The new Midnight Mission also included 24-7 bathrooms as part of their project.

These facilities are challenging to operate to say the least & they merely enable people to continue to live on the street. The Drop-in Center became drug central & two people were murdered in the lobby of

LAMP during this time.

Keeping people on the street is exactly what we do not want to do when all studies point to the precarious existence for the individual (often leading to death) and the high public cost compared to more permanent facilities.

Do we need to include these thoughts in the letter???

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From: Marie Rumsey <MRumsey@ccala.org>

Date: Friday, June 19, 2015 at 10:21 AM

To: Kent Smith <kent@fashiondistrict.org>, Rena Leddy <rena@fashiondistrict.org>, Sauli Danpour <saulid@xyvest.com>, Raquel Beard <rbeard@centralcityeast.org>, "mike@skidrow.org" <mike@skidrow.org>, "jgarcia@hasc.org" <jgarcia@hasc.org>, Jessica Lall <jessica@southpark.la>, Blair Besten <blair@historiccore.bid>

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Attached is the letter we discussed at our last meeting. Please review it and let me know of any and all suggestions.

Also, please let me know your thoughts on if the letter should be signed by each member of the working group or just by Carol.

Thank you, Marie